## **Claims**

For the convenience of the Examiner, all pending claims are set forth below, whether or not an amendment is made. Please amend the claims as follows:

- 1. (Canceled)
- 2. (Canceled)
- 3. (Canceled)
- 4. (Canceled)
- 5. (Canceled)
- 6. (Canceled)
- 7. (Canceled)
- 8. (Canceled)

9. (Currently Amended) A processing engine for a processing node of an electronic commerce distributed network, the processing engine comprising:

a plurality of communication units operable to communicate with participating organizations in a plurality of communication protocols, the plurality of communication units further operable to receive electronic commerce messages from originator organizations and communicate <u>said</u> electronic commerce messages to recipient organizations;

an engine operable to process an electronic commerce message received from an originator organization and to build an outgoing electronic commerce message for transmission to a recipient organization, wherein the engine accomplishes processing and building by:

accessing profiles that defines characteristics for the originator organization and the recipient organization; and

invoking selected functions from a matrix of functions where the selected functions are chosen based upon the profiles for the originator organization and the recipient organization; and

an interface unit coupled to and communicating with the plurality of communication units and the engine, the interface unit allowing incoming and <u>said</u> outgoing electronic commerce messages to be communicated between the plurality of communication units and the engine;

the processing engine providing electronic commerce interconnectivity for participating organizations that have different computer and communication environments.

- 10. (Original) The processing engine of Claim 9, wherein the interface unit is an X.400 unit operable to communicate using an X.400 protocol.
- 11. (Original) The processing engine of Claim 10, wherein the plurality of communication units comprise a P1 unit and a P7 unit.

- 12. (Currently Amended) The processing engine of Claim 9, wherein the plurality of communication units includes a plurality of Internet mail units, and the processing engine further comprising a gateway coupled to the plurality of Internet mail units and the engine, the gateway operable to interface between a communication protocol of the plurality of internet mail units and a communication protocol of the interface unit.
- 13. (Currently Amended) The processing engine of Claim 12, wherein the plurality of <u>Internet</u> mail units comprise an SMTP unit, a MIME unit and a POP unit.
- 14. (Original) The processing engine of Claim 9, wherein the profiles of the originator organization and the recipient organization are accessible via an external user interface.
  - 15. (Canceled)
  - 16. (Canceled)
  - 17. (Canceled)
  - 18. (Canceled)
  - 19. (Canceled)
  - 20. (Canceled)